

USE OF PARAQUAT AS A HARVEST AID FOR CEREALS. Dennis E. Stamm, Thomas B. Threewitt, and Charles Foresman, Research Scientist, Research Scientist, and Technical Brand Manager, Syngenta Crop Protection, Greensboro, NC 27419.

University researchers in six states conducted trials in 2002 and 2003 that evaluated paraquat as a harvest aid in spring and winter wheat. Treatments included paraquat alone, paraquat tank mixed with 2,4-D or the DGA salt of dicamba, glyphosate treatments, and metsulfuron + 2,4-D. Application timings were: 10-14 day before harvest (dbh), approximately 7 dbh, and 3 dbh. Soil moisture at time of application influenced weed control. In the trials with adequate soil moisture, paraquat gave weed control in as little as 2 days. Under drier soil moisture conditions, weed control was reduced and the speed of control was slower. Paraquat alone or in tank mix with 2,4-D or the DGA salt of dicamba gave the best control of kochia, Russian thistle, common and slimleaf lambsquarter. Herbicide treatments did not reduce yields. In some of the spring wheat trials, grain moisture in the herbicide treated plots was lower than the untreated plots.